

2017 West Coast Whale Entanglement Summary

Figure 1. Confirmed U.S. West Coast whale entanglements by year and whale species, 2000 to 2017.

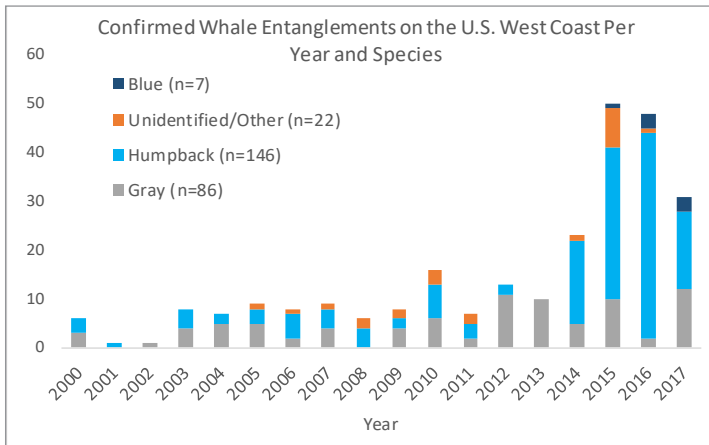
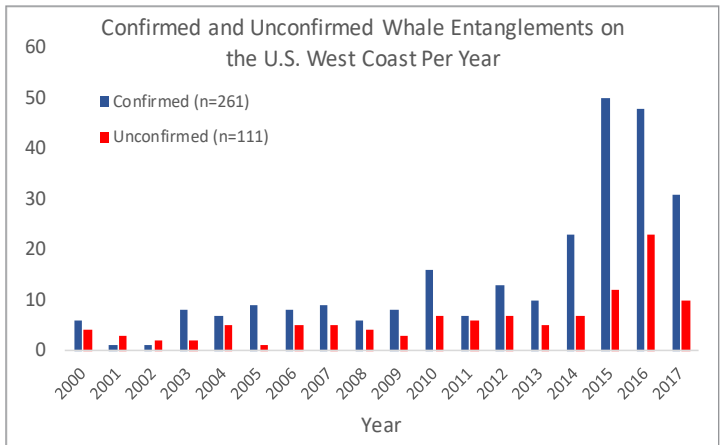


Figure 2. Confirmed and unconfirmed reported U.S. West Coast whale entanglement cases by year, 2000 to 2017.



Sources of Entanglement

In 2017, 14 of the 31 confirmed entanglement cases were identified as associated with specific fisheries or gear type (Table 2). This includes gear identifiable to state, tribal, and federally-managed fisheries occurring off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California.

Table 2. Confirmed sources of whale entanglements in 2017.

FISHERY	NUMBER OF REPORTS
California Dungeness crab commercial trap fishery	5 (1 gray, 3 humpbacks, 1 blue)
California Dungeness crab recreational trap fishery	1 (1 humpback)
Washington Dungeness crab commercial trap fishery including tribal fisheries	3 (1 gray, 2 humpbacks)
Sablefish/coonstripe shrimp commercial trap fishery*	1 (1 humpback)
Gillnet fisheries**	4 (4 gray)

*Gear from both fisheries involved in the same single entanglement

**Several additional entanglements involved gear that may have been associated with nets of some variety but could not be identified



Entangled humpback whale trailing lines and buoys.
Photo: Wendy Mulé, NMFS
MMHSRP Permit #18786